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1935
SUPPLEMENT

to our Green Begonia list
with special reference to

NOVELTIES



TUBEROUS



ADDITIONAL

CULTURAL
NOTES



ROSECROFT BEGONIA
GARDENS
POINT LOMA - CALIFORNIA



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NOVELTIES

SEEDLINGS OF CORALLINE LUCERNE

Color descriptions from Ridgeway but the plants vary more than the descriptions indicate.

These seedlings represent the first really successful effort to get variations from this justly popular tall growing, almost ever blooming, hardy variety which, although we have never been able to find any authoritative data as to its origin, we believe to be a hybrid, as from seed we have never grown one plant the exact duplicate of the parent. Hand pollenization has been a failure so we have gathered hundreds of seedpods from plants growing in the midst of a multitude of other kinds and so obtained a small amount of fertile seed, from which came the below described and others at present merely numbered.

A word as to nomenclature. We believe a name should have some indication as to the origin of its bearer, so as these trace back to Lucerne we have adopted the names of the Alpine Lakes for its descendants, thus we can at once identify any of them as belonging on the Lucerne family tree.

Price \$1.00 each, except where otherwise indicated; \$5.00 for six of those priced at \$1.00; only one of a kind to any one customer. There are but a few of any of these and we suggest substitution be allowed to prevent disappointment.

BELLARGIO. Very smooth, medium dark ivy green leaf under burnt lake; bloom bright carmine; excellent habit, very distinctive. \$2.00.

SURETTA. Medium maple leaf of jade green varigated to coral pink, under pompeian red; bloom white flushed alizarine (light) pink; wonderful bushy habit; a distinctive departure from type. \$2.00.

LUCENDRO. Very pointed leaf of yew green, heavily silver spotted with silver tips; bloom spinel red with white center to seedpod; excellent bushy habit.

ZURICK. Leaf yew green under burnt lake; bloom thulite pink.

CODELARGO. Leaf dark cress green heavily silver spotted under ox blood red; bloom light spinel pink; good branching habit.

MAGGIORE. Leaf deep dull yellow green, under burnt lake; bloom dark spinel red.

NEUCHATEL. Large leaf of dark, dull green with subdued silver spots under veins bordeaux; bloom Brazil red with lighter petals; extra vigorous.

LECCO. Leaf ivy green, heavily silver spotted under burnt lake; bloom begonia rose; good branching habit.



New Things in Rubras

For the same reason given for the naming of the LUCERNE seedlings, these RUBRAS bear the names of girls.

Prices the same as LUCERNE seedlings.

AUDREE. Wavy leaf of yew green; bloom begonia rose in clusters, flaring rather than pendant. \$2.00.

ELITHE. Leaf yew green; bloom begonia rose.

GRACE. Leaf dark, dull, yellow green; bloom ecine pink, shading to white with conspicuous yellow stamens; quite fragrant.

LADY LOU. Leaf cress green, serrated edge; bloom cameo pink; drooping habit. \$2.00.

VELMA S. Leaf cress green, shorter and rounder than type; bloom ecine pink, with rounded petals and seedpods, and male flowers larger than type; distinctive.

ZELMA. Leaf chromium green; bloom creamy white on pink tinted stems.



Fruticosa and Viaude Seedlings

We have a number of these with marked individuality, but have not yet decided which to retain and propagate. They have generally, the dark, leathery leaf and white blooms in clusters on long stems, though very smooth, lighter green leaves are included. The illustration in our green list, page 27, is typical. They are admirable for grouping, making a pleasing contrast to the rather monotonous foliage effect of the RUBRA type and only half as tall in habit.

Price 50c each except for one with a wavy leaf and spreading habit that makes an elegant basket plant, which is \$1.00.

Additions to Our Green List

Not Originating at Rosecroft

DOMINICAN Species. This was grown from seed gathered by the Government in Dominica. Fluted leaf, light cress green; bloom small, white in clusters; sturdy habit of growth, suggestive of *Odorata Alba*. 35 cents.

DRURYII. Haageana type; smooth leaf of dull ivy green, under maroon purple; blooms white in clusters; good habit. 50 cents.

CHIALA. White and Pink. These two are very similar except in color of bloom. However, our meagre description in green list should be supplemented by stating that the leaves are wavy, very dark, almost black under, and the habit good. 35 cents.

IMPROVED MARGUERITE. This has larger leaves and blooms than the original form and is entitled to the qualifying "Improved."

SPECULATA. Rhizomatous, closely creped maple leaf, ivy green with tea green shading along veins; under shaded Bordeaux; bloom light pink with green seed-pods, often classed with the REX where it fits in with the medium leaved. 35 cents.



Errata

On page 14 of our green list we have as a synonym of HOUGHTONI-UROPHYLLA. We are confident this is a mistake as *Urophylla* in Curtis' Botanical Magazine is described as being rhizomatous and the illustration is not remotely like Houghtoni, a branching fibrous of the Haageana type.

We have given the bloom of WALLOW as white, as it was under glass, but in the lath house this summer it was a light but definite pink.

Tuberous Section



Tuberous Begonia

Price 20c each, \$2.00 per dozen, \$15.00 per 100, except where otherwise mentioned.

We believe our tubers for 1935 will be fully up to the high standard of the past. They have been carefully rogued in the growing beds and sorted as dry tubers, and are stored under conditions best calculated to preserve maximum vigor. We specialize in a medium sized tuber as experience has shown that in this class is the largest percentage of fine blooms and satisfactory plants.

We can supply in separate colors or mixture:

DOUBLES. In Rose, Pink, Scarlet, Crimson, Yellow, Orange and White.

FRILLED. In same colors.

FIMBRIATA PLENA (Carnation), in mixture only.

NARCISSIFLORA (Daffodil), in mixture only.

LLOYDII (Hanging), in mixture only.

PEARCEI, small single, sulphur yellow.

EVANSIANA, hardy pink in clusters.

MARTIANA (Hollyhock).

SOCOTRANA, winter blooming, single, pink, \$1.00.

For further description see our green list.

Handling Tubers

These are available in the dry state from mid-December till the end of February. They sprout early in Southern California.

Begonia tubers are more like a round soucer shaped potato than a bulb. The top is the depressed side. To start them, put to half their depth in leaf mold, sand or moss. We prefer the first. Give them a good wetting and keep in shaded location in moderate temperature till they sprout; before they do, keep on dry side.

When well growing, pot in the Begonia compost with crown barely covered, water thoroughly by setting pot in water till moisture shows on surface and then not again till well established. Start with as small a pot as size of tuber allows, shifting on as required. A large tuber will finally ask for an eight-inch size. Keep in strong light but not direct sunlight. When in full growth water freely. Most tuberous Begonias unfortunately require staking; do this before it seems necessary. Pinch off the first blooms and keep off seedpods for best development.

When plants show by yellowing foliage and ceasing to bloom that they are ready to mature, water only enough to avoid actual dryness. Store pots away on their side under a bench or shrubbery or if removed from soil put tubers in leaf mold in flats. They should never be actually dry, nor wet, nor in danger of frost.

A good fertilizer is Floranid, one teaspoonful to a gallon of water applied every two weeks. Ordinary washing Ammonia a teaspoonful to a gallon of water is also useful. No fertilizer more often than once in four waterings and never on a dry plant, nor on one not in growing state.



Shipping Directions

Tubers can be shipped in the dormant state only in January and February. By the first of March they start growth in our climate, and any attempt to control this has resulted in a lowered vitality. As with the majority of tuberous plants, root production should precede top growth.

Orders for less than one dollar are not acceptable.

Additional Cultural Notes

We find that in large sections of the country leaf mold is difficult to obtain. A good substitute is turfy loam with the addition of one quarter of coarse sand or gravel using for watering this government formula: TO ONE GALLON OF WATER ADD ONE-HALF OUNCE OF SUPERSATURATED ALUM. This supplies the acidity begonias appreciate and offsets alkalinity.

Though authorities are divided, plant growers are fairly well agreed that the use of chlorine in water has been very harmful to plant growth. We think it has, and advise the saving of rainwater where possible so that when our city fathers in a panic over the report of some case of infectious disease in a neighboring state, dump into the water system an extra load of chlorine, the rainwater barrel can come to the rescue of the potted plants.

We have found it advisable to make our lath house ground covers seasonal, and now strip the beds of all such growth at least once a year and work in Vaporite, a Naphtholene product, for pest control. The lovely Helxine has been ruthlessly stripped as it formed a perfect incubator for slugs and sow bugs. It will come back in the Spring.

The Calla Begonia which we have distributed somewhat widely has called for more explicit cultural directions. It is definitely a Vernon and as such a summer grower, being apt, even under greenhouse culture, to become dormant in winter, when it should be kept on quite the dry side, watering being done from below by suction and even when in full growth this method is safer than overhead sprinkling. In the Spring when growth is well started it may be divided, but this should not be attempted in the Fall. Keep near the glass in good light. It is called the Calla because the new growth of leaves half unfolded resembles a Calla bloom. Its bloom is pink or red just like the Vernon type. Winter growth is apt to be plain green.



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